

THE CLEVELAND
MUSEUM OF ART
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CLEVELAND, OHIO
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April 9, 1991

THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART PRESENTS
NEW FILMS BY WOMEN

April 14, 17, 21, 24, and 28

The five feature-length films which make up The Cleveland Museum of Art's April series, *New Films by Women*, represent some of the most inspired recent achievements in American independent cinema, among all filmmakers, not just those who are female. As indicated by the series title, however, these works do share the common element of having been directed by women. The grouping is meaningful in that these directors bring fresh perspectives to old issues and introduce new issues previously not confronted in the American cinema

Antigone/Rites for the Dead, showing April 21, has earned strong praise for its nineties-style modern dance retelling of Sophocles' ancient drama. Instead of a Greek chorus leading the audience through the tragic events, the cast of longtime professional dancers conveys the drama gesturally, accompanied by a dynamic soundtrack featuring Glenn Branca and David Van Tieghem. Amy Greenfield's reworking of the classic tale explores emotional and erotic tensions between Antigone and Oedipus and her sister Ismene. By contrast, *H-2 Worker* focuses on the present-day plight of the 10,000 or so migratory sugar cane workers who travel from the Caribbean to Florida every fall on temporary H-2 visas, then are shipped back (with very little in their pockets) after the five-or-six-month sugar season is over. Stephanie Black's 1989 documentary is so effective a statement about the conditions under which H-2 workers must exist both in the U.S. and at home that eight congressmen co-sponsored a screening at the Library of Congress for all their colleagues to see — much to the chagrin of Florida's powerful sugar cane lobby. The other three films in this special series present equally compelling visions. Films are shown at The Cleveland Museum of Art, Sundays, 3:30 pm and Wednesdays, 8 pm. General admission \$3, CMA members \$2. (details follow)

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All the movies in this series are American-made films in their Cleveland premieres.

Sun Apr 14, 3:30 pm *Surname Viet Given Name Nam*, 1989. Directed by Trinh T. Minh-ha. Color, 108 min. Adventurous personal inquiry into the role of women in Vietnamese society.

Wed Apr 17, 8 pm *H-2 Worker*, 1989. Directed by Stephanie Black. Color, 70 min. Harrowing study of the exploitation of Jamaican sugar cane workers who are imported to Florida on temporary (H-2) visas for six months' labor every year.

Sun Apr 21, 3:30 pm *Antigone/Rites for the Dead*, 1990. Directed by Amy Greenfield. Color, 89 min. With Bertram Ross, Janet Eilber, and Amy Greenfield. Intense, erotic dance telling of the ancient Greek myth. New Music score by Glenn Branca, David Van Tieghem, and others.

Wed Apr 24, 8 pm *Book of Days*, 1988. Directed by Meredith Monk. Color, 75 min. Performance artist and composer Monk creates a poetic view of medieval life with parallels to our time.

Sun Apr 28, 3:30 pm *Privilege*, 1990. Directed by Yvonne Rainer. Color/B&W, 103 min. Witty, inventive and subversive meditation on menopause by the woman hailed by J. Hoberman in *The Village Voice* as "the most influential American avant-garde filmmaker of the last 20 years."

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